

**East Mountain Trails and Bikeways Facility Plan  
Public Meeting Summary  
January 29, 2004, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Los Vecinos Community Center**

**Agenda**

- **Welcome by Commissioner Michael Brasher**
- **Planning Team and Project Introduction**
- **Mapping Destinations and Trails**
- **Mapping Groups Report Back**
- **Next Steps and Closing**

**Materials**

- **Color map of entire East Mountain Area**
- **Color base maps of divided areas: South of I-40, North of I-40/east of N. 14/ North of I-40/west of N. 14 (1"=1/4 mile), aerial map**
- **Trail Destinations and Corridors survey form**
- **Glossary of Definitions**
- **Summary of Project Scope and Schedule**
- **Boards: Glossary, Project Team Members**
- **Comment Sheet**

**Summary**

More than 100 people—three-quarters from the East Mountain Area and one quarter from Albuquerque—attended the first public meeting for the East Mountain Trails and Bikeways Master Plan at Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras. An informal show of hands revealed that among them were 33 dirt bikers, 32 hikers, 25 mountain bikers, 18 touring cyclists, 17 four-wheel drive enthusiasts, 15 cross-country skiers, 10 ATV riders, 8 snowshoers, and 6 equestrians. These figures indicate that an individual does more than one trail activity. Bernalillo County Commissioner Michael Brasher opened the meeting with a few remarks and stayed throughout to observe.

The purposes of the meeting were to introduce the project, solicit initial input as to trails currently used as well as potential and desirable locations for future trail corridors, and to identify potential opportunities and known constraints. The East Mountains were divided into three areas – North 14, South 14, and the Tijeras Corridor. Each area had its own map on which meeting participants used colored markers to note their trail destinations and suggested future trails. Volunteers then shared the comments made on each map. Most participants completed a survey that asked them to indicate their trail origins, destinations, suggested future trail corridors, and their preferred travel mode and trail design (i.e., hard or soft surface). This survey information also will be mapped.



## Issues and Concerns

The project team is sifting through the comments and the surveys in order to identify potential trail corridors. Consultations with the Technical Team and Steering Committee will occur. Important trail issues that are emerging include:

- ❑ Trail use conflicts: Motorized versus non-motorized
- ❑ Improvements are needed to shoulders of state and county roads
- ❑ Dangerous or troublesome trail crossings intersections (i.e. Frost Rd. and N. 14 and I-40 underpass at Tijeras)
- ❑ A desire for trail loops where possible
- ❑ Appropriate trailhead locations
- ❑ Improved signage/ eg., "Share the Road"
- ❑ Dust control measures required by Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board

Coordination with results from the East Mountain Area Plan and the East Mountain Open Space planning will also occur throughout 2004 to ensure compatibility.

### **South of I-40**

Sandia Mountain Ranch near 217

- Possible trail links through subdivision before 3rd phase?
- Open to other trails
  - Links to open space such as Sedillo Ridge, trust lands national forest
- Rancho Verde is landlocking; nearby residents would like access through subdivision

Maps available at Forest Service station

- Cedro Peak – mapped by Charlie Ervin(Two-Wheel Drive)
- Not all of Charlie's trails are Forest Service-designated trails

Forest service lands allow motorized traffic

- OHV's 'tread lightly'
- Only use existing roads, trails
- Don't require maintenance

Four-wheelers just want ROW—the rougher the better

Mountain bikes have problems on roads that have been roughened by OHV's

More Signage

- 'Share the road' signs so motorists made aware of cyclists

NM14 – Turquoise Trail

- Could use improvements to increase touring for bikes
- Is it possible in the future to have a separate bike path for cyclists on Hwy.14?

### **North of I-40/west of N. 14**

Road from North 14 to Cole Springs (Canoncito) closed after certain point

- Need access to Faulty mountain trail
- Neighbors may be willing to negotiate non-motorized access with Forest Service

- Wildlife considerations—may not want to open up area entirely for recreation

### **East of 14, North of I-40 & Tijeras Corr.**

- Not friendly to bikes—(particularly I-40 underpass at 333 and Frontage Rd near Tijeras)
- Hiking trails exist between Gutierrez O.S. 14 & Frost Rd
- Is hiking & horseback riding thru Campbell Ranch possible?  
Use gas utility easement?
- Old railway ROW may exist north of Frost Road.
- Sandia Knolls – all uses
- Tijeras Library is popular starting point for mountain/road bikes

### **North of I-40**

- Good bike riding shoulder on frontage road at Mountain Valley (217) in places/ need to do for whole length, esp. north of I-40.
  - Used a lot by mountain bikes

### **Sandia Knolls – to 14 (Frost Rd.)**

- No shoulder – unsafe for cyclists. Road speed is 50 mph.
- Need path to Post Office along Frost
- West of N. 14 the shoulder is better going up to the Crest
- No light at Sandia Knolls & 14 or San Ant. Elem. School & 14, so dangerous to cross
- Frost dangerous for all
- N 14 Loop possibilities along drainage swale along Frost
- Tres Pistoles to Carlito, to Ojito, & Cole Springs—open space links

### **NM 14 Corridor**

- Control development
  - Village Development—have some place to walk to
  - Clustered Commercial activities
- Road Bike
  - Turquoise Trail (14) is major touring route in summer, would like trail or shoulder up to Madrid or even Santa Fe
    - Creates economic development, too
  - 337 & N14 – heavily used road bike corridors
    - Need wider riding area so be swept for glass. debris
  - Also 217, Juan Tomas Rd, Rt. 66, Sedillo Hill, Vallecitos, Frost
  - Lots of bike riders start at the library parking lot in Tijeras
  - Bikes also use triangle at Frost and N. 14 as staging area, legal?
- OHV – Motorized
  - Cedro towers – like it open again
  - Clean up from others

<b>Decisions</b>
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- The second public meeting will be held Tuesday, April 6, 2004, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Los Vecinos Community Center.
- A website for the project will be posted on the Bernalillo County website under Commissioner Brasher's location within a few weeks when the County finishes updating the entire site.
- Attendees were urged to turn in their survey forms at the meeting or within the new two weeks.
- The project will have a booth at East Mountain Festival Day, Sunday, April 25, 2004, at Los Vecinos Community Center.

<b>List of Project Staff</b>
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County Staff

Clay Campbell, Senior Park Planner and Co-Project Manager

Nathan Masek, Senior Park Planner and Co-Project Manager

Consultants

John Barney, Community Designer and Project Manager, Sites Southwest

Barbara Herrington, Planner, Sites Southwest

Maura Lewiecki, Designer, Sites Southwest

Phyllis Taylor, Principal, Sites Southwest

Karen Aspelin, Engineering Sub-Consultant, Parsons Brinkerhoff

Diane Scena, Trails Sub-Consultant